

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus comprising:

at least one printing means for selectively forming an image on a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium
5 that temporarily retains the image;

over-coating means for covering a surface of the recording medium formed thereupon with the image with a coating film; and

transfer means for transferring the image on the intermediate transfer medium to the recording medium, said over-
10 coating means and said transfer means being arranged at a same position.

2. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said over-coating means and said second printing means arranged at
15 the same position are composed of a same heating element.

3. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said heating element is a heat roller having an exothermic body.

20 4. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a supply spool shaft that is capable of mounting a first supply spool for supplying the intermediate transfer medium and a second supply spool for supplying the coating film, and a take-up spool shaft that is capable of mounting a first take-up spool
25 for taking up the intermediate transfer medium and a second take-up spool for taking up the coating film, at least one of said supply spool shaft and said take-up spool shaft being a single spool shaft.

30 5. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising

a platen opposingly arranged to the heating element for supporting the recording medium when the over-coating means covers the surface of the recording medium with the coating film and when the transfer means transfers the image.

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6. A printing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising first drive means for rotatingly driving the take-up spool shaft, said first drive means rotatingly driving the first supply spool and/or the second supply spool.

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7. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first drive means is a motor capable of rotating both forward and in reverse.

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8. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising intermediate transfer medium transport means disposed in an intermediate transfer medium transport path between the first supply spool and the first take-up spool for transporting the intermediate transfer medium, and second drive means for
20 rotatingly driving the intermediate transfer medium transport means.

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9. A printing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising measuring means disposed in the intermediate transfer medium transport path for measuring feeding and returning amounts of the intermediate transfer medium.

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10. A printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second drive means is a motor capable of rotating both forward and in reverse.